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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Public Affairs

Selected Speeches and News Releases

July 23 - July 29, 1992

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Remarks

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

Prepared for delivery by Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan before the American School Food Service Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 21.

I'd like to thank all of you for inviting me to speak to you this morning. Many of you have traveled some distance to get here, some of you are here with your families, on vacation, at your own expense. I'm happy and honored that you could make it.

There are 64 million children in the United States today. Although the Department of Agriculture administers the school food programs, you make them work. There wouldn't be a school lunch program, or a school breakfast program, without you—programs that benefit so many of America's kids.

You serve 25 million lunches and 5 million breakfasts in more than 92,000 schools every day. More hungry kids in more schools depend on you today than at any time in our history. You've made these programs some of the most successful in America. That's important, because nutrition is basic to life. All things are possible for a child who is well fed. Very little is possible for a child who doesn't get the nutritious foods. And it's our job to get those nutritious foods—and the best nutritional advice available—to you and the public.

And every child shares this need, every one of them. And that's why we're here this morning.

The President underscored the importance of a strong nutrition foundation in his America 2000 initiative. The first of his six national education goals is that "By the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn."

That's where it begins. And so I thought I'd bring you an update on what we're doing to improve a great program that's vital to America's kids, and America's future.

Years ago, the USDA was concerned almost entirely with the success of America's farms and ranches. No more. Our food assistance programs—including food stamps, WIC, and our child nutrition

programs—now make up more than 60 percent of our proposed budget for FY1993, which begins in October.

Our school food programs, including school lunch, school breakfast, and the Special Milk Program, are a critical part of what we do. Their impact is felt nationwide. This year alone, 25 million children—well over half those eligible—will participate in the school lunch program.

Next year, we've asked the Congress to spend \$3.9 billion on the school lunch program—the highest request in our nation's history. This will help cover a projected one percent increase in the number of lunches served.

This work, your work, is having a positive effect on our children and on America's future. We want to improve that effort, though, and I'd like to tell you about a few of the changes we're making to improve our school food programs even further.

First, we want school food programs to continue to improve our children's health.

Second, we want our nutrition education programs to give us the information we need to choose our foods wisely.

Finally, we want to see the existing school food programs operate efficiently and effectively.

HEALTH

There's a strong link between nutrition and health. A critical element to improving the nutritional quality of our diets is to implement the 1990 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. They recommend—for the first time—a diet where 30 percent or less of the total calories come from fat for adults and children over age two.

Putting the Dietary Guidelines into effect in your school is one of our priorities at the USDA. I pledge to you today that by the end of 1994, all school food service workers—every one of you here, and those across America—will have the tools they need to follow the Dietary Guidelines.

We're well underway. This spring, our Food and Nutrition Service issued the publication, *Nutrition Guidance for Child Nutrition Programs*. It provides tips and information on how to offer meals that meet the Dietary Guidelines. More than 300,000 copies are in the hands of school food service and child care centers nationwide.

In addition to these guidelines, our experts are taking other steps to improve the nutrition of school meals:

- We are revising, when necessary, school lunch meal patterns to reduce total and saturated fat.
- We are developing additional quantity recipes that meet our dietary goals.
- We are changing planning guides to include new menus, and tips for lowering fat.
- We are providing training materials and workshops for food service workers.
- We have menu demonstration projects underway in five school districts around the country. They show how schools can change menus to reduce fat, salt and sugar—and still keep students eating school lunch. After an evaluation, we'll apply the finding to school menus nationwide. So far, children appear to be accepting the changes. This is the first major school nutrition research in a decade and involves 4,000 students and 600 schools. The study is looking at meals planned, served and actually eaten during a 24-hour period.

The results are due next spring. They will tell us how nutritious school lunches are and allow us to analyze school lunch data with an eye to revising the current meal pattern to help bring it in line with the Dietary Guidelines. Basic data like this is critical to our efforts to improve the nutrition provided by the school food programs.

Another long-range effort that has helped schools provide healthier meals is our work in lowering the fat, salt and sugar in over 80 commodities. We've made major improvements in the past few years, and we're continuing to make changes.

- For instance, frozen ground turkey with average fat content of 11 percent is now available to schools.
- Bulk ground beef—with 20 percent fat—is available.
- Last year, we tested a beef patty with 10 percent fat. We provided 1.6 million pounds to schools in the 1991-92 school year. We'll provide more as industry makes it available.
- Frozen diced chicken is now available.
- Fish products are available.
- More foods with complex carbohydrates are available, including whole wheat flour, brown rice, pasta and dried bean products.

- We're also offering more variety in poultry products, such as turkey burgers, chicken nuggets, whole and ground turkey, turkey roasts, and others.

Limited amounts of bonus commodities are still available. Distribution of many of these, such as cheese and nonfat dry milk, has declined, because we've run out of those items. This fall, we hope to be able to provide cornmeal, including flour corn masa, butter and butter oil. Occasionally, we'll also distribute almond slivers, canned and frozen asparagus, canned and dry beans, refried beans, vegetarian beans, cranberry puree, date pieces, grape juice, frozen ham, canned pork, dehydrated potatoes, and frozen strawberries. We may even have frozen chicken, canned salmon and salmon nuggets.

Let me mention the school breakfast program. It's one of the fastest growing food programs. In the last seven years, the number of schools serving school breakfasts increased by 47 percent. Today, school breakfasts are available to half the children in public schools. School breakfast funding is at record levels. I'm excited about this because of the effect it's having on families. Where school breakfasts are available, every child can begin the day ready to learn, fulfilling the President's goal.

In the last two years, our Food and Nutrition Service has awarded \$10 million to 39 states for "start-up school breakfast grants." The latest example is Pennsylvania, which is getting almost \$500,000 to add about 175 new school breakfast programs this week. States are using these funds to expand the breakfast program to schools that serve low-income children.

NUTRITION EDUCATION

Nutrition education is as important as our food programs. We can't do everything, and ultimately it'll be up to kids to make their own, informed decisions.

I've been personally interested in nutrition and nutrition education for many years.

That personal interest led in part to one of our strategic goals at the USDA—to use education to achieve better nutrition, and better health.

Today, we're making a big push for nutrition education, nutrition information, and nutrition research. Eight USDA agencies work in this area.

Next year, we hope to spend \$321 million on nutrition related work among these agencies. That's 20 percent more than this year.

\$25 million will fund our Nutrition Education Initiative alone. We've asked for additional funds to improve the Nutrition Education Initiative to support our goal of using education to achieve better nutrition—especially for children, and adults with limited resources. We want to educate children about the importance of good eating habits, and to teach limited-resource adults new ways to improve their diets, spend money wisely, and handle food safely.

As you already know, we're providing you with the publications and the training you need to bring school meals in line with the Dietary Guidelines.

FOOD GUIDE PYRAMID

Of course, the centerpiece of our nutrition education effort is the Food Guide Pyramid. Announced last April, the pyramid is the visual companion to the Dietary Guidelines. It shows, in a graphic, what Americans should eat to stay healthy.

I hope all of you have seen it by now. The pyramid conveys the three essential elements of a healthy diet: proportion, moderation and variety. It replaces the Basic Four Food Groups and the food wheel, which many of you remember from years past. We've done extensive research on the pyramid to make sure its message reaches those who may be at nutritional risk. Research indicates that, while the pyramid is very effective, no single graphic is perfect. The pyramid cannot teach all the messages of good nutrition. So we've published the pyramid in a 30-page pamphlet that discusses the pyramid and gives additional information on how to make the best food choices.

We have distributed information on the pyramid to State directors of the child nutrition, food stamp, and WIC programs, and to Indian tribal organizations.

And soon, we'll be getting information to health teachers, low-literacy adults, and older Americans.

We also will distribute more than 150,000 poster-size pyramids to schools. You should get them by early September. I urge you to post it in every school lunchroom, or classroom, or both. If the meals you serve to children in the lunchroom reflect the principles contained in the pyramid, they'll learn about food in the lunchroom as well as the classroom. Come to think of it, maybe they learn more in the lunchroom.

MAKING A GOOD SYSTEM BETTER

We're spending a lot of money on these school food programs, and it's money well spent.

To that end, I am very proud of the ASFSA-USDA cooperation in developing the coordinated review effort or CRE.

Over the years, we've simplified the application form for free and reduced price meals. We've implemented a system of direct certification where State agencies or local schools may certify children eligible for free meal benefits. We've also launched several demonstration projects for counting and claiming meals under the programs. We are anxious to begin reviewing the information these projects will generate.

We need to do all we can to cut paperwork requirements to a minimum, while remaining accountable for the use of public funds.

Today, the proposed regulatory rule on coordinated review has been modified to take into account over 4,000 comments from state and local cooperators. It does not place additional requirements on the local level. As a result of these comments, we'll extend the CRE implementation date for States that need more time.

I am happy that we have been able to successfully develop the coordinated review effort. What makes this possible is our successful collaboration.

We know you are determined, hardworking, caring and very savvy. And I know you take your work very seriously. Over the years, your work has become more and more important, to the Country, and to the USDA. I hope you will continue to feed and nurture our children, and to continue to improve what already are the best nutrition programs in the world.

Thank you and God bless you.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

USDA REQUESTS COMMENTS ON LIMITATION OF BROKEN RICE IN FOOD AID SHIPMENTS

WASHINGTON, July 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is requesting public comment on the current policy of limiting broken kernels to 20 percent in certain food aid rice shipments, according to Keith Bjerke, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

In PL-480 Title I, II and III shipments and shipments under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 and the Food for Progress Act of 1985, the quality of rice is limited to U.S. number 5, 20 percent broken kernels, or better. USDA has been requested to discontinue this limitation, allowing recipient countries to obtain rice of broken content as normally sold commercially.

Bjerke said USDA is requesting comments to make sure it obtains all viewpoints from rice producers, millers, domestic users, and other interested persons.

Comments, which must be received by Aug. 17 to be considered, should be mailed to: Deputy Administrator, Policy Analysis, USDA/ASCS, Room 3090-S, Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013-2415. Comments may also be FAXed to (202) 690-1346.

For more information on this request for comments, write to the above address or call: Gene S. Rosera, Fibers and Rice Analysis Division, ASCS, (202) 720-6734.

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Janise Zygmont (202) 720-7954
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, July 16—John Stevenson, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), the coarse count adjustment and the user marketing certificate payment rates in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 17, through midnight Thursday, July 23.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the NE price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

Based on data for the week ending July 16, a further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 96 percent of the 1991 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 4.87 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	48.58 cents per pound
	1991 Base Loan Rate	50.77 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate....	96
II.	USNE Price	67.75 cents per pound
	NE Price	-62.88 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed.....	4.87 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and

other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

Based on data for the week ending July 16, the AWP for base quality upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price 62.88

Adjustments:

Average U.S. spot market location 12.05

SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton 1.90

Average U.S. location 0.35

Sum of Adjustments -14.30

Calculated AWP 48.58

Further AWP adjustment - 0

ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE 48.58 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price 62.88

NE Coarse Count Price -57.75

5.13

Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton -4.20

COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT 0.93 cents/lb.

Because this week's AWP is below both the 1990 and 1991 base quality loan rates of 50.27 and 50.77 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges on the 1990 crop. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Based on data for the week ending July 16, the USNE current price exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound and the AWP did not exceed 130 percent of the current crop year base quality loan rate for four consecutive weeks. Therefore, the user marketing certificate payment rate, based on current shipment prices, is 5.28 cents per pound. The user marketing certificate payment rate, based on current shipment prices, is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30,

1992. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate, based on current shipment prices, are summarized below:

Week	Period Ending	For the		USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Current Certificate Payment Rate ¹
		cents per pound					
1	June 25, 1992	69.95	65.54	4.41	3.16		
2	July 2, 1992	71.45	65.77	5.68	4.43		
3	July 9, 1992	71.15	65.38	5.77	4.52		
4	July 16, 1992	72.00	65.47	6.53	5.28		

¹USNE current price minus NE current price minus 1.25 cents.

Based on data for the week ending July 16, the USNE forward price exceeded the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound and the AWP did not exceed 130 percent of the current crop year base quality loan rate for four consecutive weeks. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate, based on forward shipment prices, is 3.62 cents per pound. The user marketing certificate payment rate, based on forward shipment prices, will be applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for cotton contracted by exporters for delivery after September 30, 1992. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate, based on forward shipment prices, are summarized below:

Week	Period Ending	For the		USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Forward Certificate Payment Rate ¹
		Friday through Thursday	cents per pound				
1	June 25, 1992	68.05	63.72	4.33	3.08		
2	July 2, 1992	67.70	63.42	4.28	3.03		
3	July 9, 1992	67.00	62.93	4.07	2.82		
4	July 16, 1992	67.75	62.88	4.87	3.62		

¹USNE forward price minus NE forward price minus 1.25 cents.

The next announcement of the AWP, coarse count adjustment and user marketing certificate payment rates will be made on Thursday, July 23.

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Rebecca Broeking (202) 720-3448
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ELIGIBLE FOR MORE VEGETABLE OIL UNDER EEP

WASHINGTON, July 16—Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 20,000 metric tons of U.S. vegetable oil to the Dominican Republic under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of vegetable oil will be made to buyers in the Dominican Republic through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. The export sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Dominican market.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Richard J. Chavez, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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Dennis Senft (510) 559-6068
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THESE DOOR PRIZES HAVE THE URGE TO EAT SPURGE

WASHINGTON, July 17—The 60 lucky winners of door prizes given out at a workshop in Bozeman, Mont., last week were ecstatic—each winner got 600 insects to take back to their home communities.

"These aren't just any insects," said Chuck Quimby with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "They're tiny Aphthona flava beetles that

feed on leafy spurge and will help suppress this noxious weed." Leafy spurge infests 5 million acres of valuable rangeland and is found in 37 states, he said.

Quimby helped organize the workshop, sponsored by federal and Montana organizations, to teach 130 land managers and weed experts how to give the beetles their best shot at surviving and reproducing on leafy spurge weeds.

"These beetles need to be released on a south-facing slope in full sun so they will have the best chance to get established and start eating leafy spurge," said Quimby, a plant physiologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The copper-colored, 1/8-inch long adult beetles eat the weed's leaves, while immature beetles eat the roots, said ARS entomologist Norm Rees, who works with Quimby at ARS' Rangeland Weeds Laboratory in Bozeman. The insects descended from specimens ARS scientists collected from spurge plants in Italy.

Leafy spurge invaded the United States from overseas in 1827. Without natural enemies to control it here, the infested area doubles about every 10 years, said Quimby, research leader at the weed lab. "It's ranked as one of the worst weeds in the Northern Great Plains and Canada and is now appearing as far south as Arizona and New Mexico," he said.

"We don't know of any approved herbicide that can kill 3-year-old and older spurge patches," said Quimby. "It's very tough and we need to find ways to control it. It spreads both by seeds and by root buds."

The best control efforts, he said, seem to be finding insects and micro-organisms that attack spurge in Europe and Asia, where these natural enemies keep spurge under control.

Several natural enemies have been discovered, tested and shipped to the United States by ARS scientists based at agency's European Biological Control Laboratory in Montpellier, France.

Quimby said the *A. flava* beetles join five other spurge-eating insect species already released and thriving in Montana, other western states and Canada. Scientists at the ARS Montpellier lab, the International Institute for Biocontrol in Switzerland and ARS scientists in Albany, Calif., and Bozeman tested the insects to make sure they would not be a threat to any crop or other valuable plant in the United States.

Aphthona beetles were first released in a land preserve owned by the city of Bozeman in 1987 and are now reducing leafy spurge populations by up to 99 percent in some locations, Quimby said.

In addition to ARS, other workshop sponsors were Montana State University, Montana Department of Agriculture, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA's Forest Service, U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs, Montana Weed Control Association, Gallatin County (Mont.) Weed Control District and Montana Biological Weed Control Coordinating Committee. The committee helped secure funding for the workshop from the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Chuck Quimby, plant physiologist, or Norm Rees, entomologist, Rangeland Weeds Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Bozeman, Mont. 59717-0056. Telephone (406) 994-6850.

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LIU APPOINTED TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT POST AT USDA

WASHINGTON, July 17—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the appointment of Michael M.F. Liu as a deputy assistant secretary of agriculture for natural resources and environment.

Prior to his new appointment, Liu was the deputy under secretary for USDA's Small Community and Rural Development. In addition he served as acting administrator for USDA's Rural Electrification and Administration.

"Michael has done a superb job since he came to USDA a year ago," Madigan said. "With his exceptional leadership qualities and his extensive experience, I know he will be successful with his new responsibilities in the office of Natural Resources and Environment."

Liu has served as deputy under secretary since the summer of 1991 for USDA's office of Small Community and Rural Development. In this role, Liu has assisted with general management and policy implementation strategies for Farmers Home Administration, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and the Rural Electrification Administration.

From 1980 through 1982, and 1984 through 1990, Liu was a member of the Hawaiian House of Representatives. He served on the finance committee and acted as senior minority spokesman on state finances and

budget. During his years as a legislator he was a key player in forging a working partnership between the state and a leading private land sector preservation planning group, Historic Hawaii Foundation.

From 1981 through 1983 Liu was marketing and manager, and legal counsel, to Knight Development Corporation in Honolulu.

From 1971 through 1974, Liu attended Stanford University where he received his bachelor's of arts degree; he earned his law degree in 1977 from the William Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii.

Liu is a native of Honolulu, Hawaii. He and his wife, Susan and son, Nicholas, reside in Arlington, Virginia. His wife, Susan Orlando Liu, is a native of Wallingford, Conn.

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FGIS PROPOSES REQUIRING STATEMENT ON ADDITIVES TO EXPORT GRAIN

WASHINGTON, July 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today proposed that whenever grain destined for export is treated with an additive, other than fumigants for insect control, the official weighing and inspection certificate for the grain shipment shall explicitly state that the additive has been applied.

According to John C. Foltz, administrator of USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, the proposal responds to both foreign and domestic grain merchants' concerns about excessive addition of water to grain.

Foltz emphasized that a number of concerns have been expressed about potential grain quality degradation due to water application, and excessive addition of water to grain to increase its weight.

The proposed statement would report the addition of additives to export grain, whether the additives are applied before or after sampling and weighing. The statement will describe the type of additive applied, the point in the handling process where it was applied, and the specific reason for application.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted in writing on or before

Aug. 3 to George Wollam, FGIS, USDA, Room 0619-S, Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; automatic telecopier machine at (202) 720-4628.

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USDA'S LOANED EXECUTIVE PROGRAM BEGINS RECRUITING FOR FORMER SOVIET UNION

WASHINGTON, July 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is looking for a few good men and women for its Loaned Executive Program, part of the USDA's technical assistance package for the newly independent states (NIS) of the former Soviet Union.

Under the program, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and a variety of U.S. agribusiness companies will be teaming up to provide direct, handson expertise to newly privatized food industries in the former Soviet Union. With the help of a selection committee headed by the Grocery Manufacturers of America, U.S. business executives will be placed in companies in the newly independent states as early as this fall.

"A unique feature of this program is the role of the U.S. agribusiness community," said R. Randall Green, deputy under secretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity program. "The participants will come from the active or retired ranks of U.S. agribusiness, but the focus will be on helping NIS firms, rather than promoting individual U.S. businesses. The aims of the program are to help these NIS enterprises increase production, promote the privatization effort, and contribute to economic reform and growth in the recipient countries."

Initially, the Loaned Executive Program will be placing small teams in three cities: Novosibirsk, Russia; Minsk, Belarus; and Alma Ata, Kazakhstan. More teams and countries may be added in the future. Identification and placement of the first executives for the 4- to 12-month assignments will occur in coming weeks.

U.S. agribusinesses that provide these loaned executives will be expected to continue paying the executives salaries and regular benefits, Green said. USDA will provide airfare and emergency medical coverage,

and the host country will pay for room and board, workplace administrative expenses including interpreters, access to medical facilities, and visa support.

In the initial round of placements, USDA is looking for the following types of executives:

—Novosibirsk, Russia: Two executives (a managerial accounting specialist and a plant operations specialist) to be placed at major meat packing plant.

—Minsk, Belarus: At least two fruit and vegetables industry executives will be recruited to work at a major enterprise. These specialists will work in warehouse and distribution management and in the management of retail sales at 16 stores that are supplied by this enterprise.

—Alma Ata, Kazakhstan: At least two executives are needed—a meat packing plant manager to work at a major plant in the city and a bakery/pasta operations/business manager to assist in the privatization of eight bakery/pasta plants.

“Executives selected for these positions will be working under rather challenging conditions and require excellent communications skills, a great deal of patience, flexibility, and cultural sensitivity,” said Green. “They should be able to work with older technology and to contribute to greater productivity within the constraints of existing facilities.”

In addition to GMA, the following organizations are represented on the selection committee: National American Wholesale Grocers Association, National Food Processors Association, Pennsylvania Research Association, Association of American Railroads, Food Marketing Institute, International Dairy Foods Association, and the American Trucking Association.

For more information, contact: James O’ Meara, Executive Director, FAS/NIS Task Force, Room 3004-South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-1000, telephone (202) 205-3614; and/or Dr. Katherine Adams, Director, Scientific Affairs Grocery Manufacturers of America, Suite 800, 1010 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007; telephone (202) 337-9400.

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USDA PROPOSES CHANGES IN THE AWP SCHEDULES FOR RICE AND UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, July 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation is requesting comments on proposals to announce the adjusted world price (AWP) for rice at 3 p.m. Eastern time each Tuesday and the AWP for upland cotton at 5 p.m. Eastern time each Thursday. The respective AWPs will be effective immediately upon announcement. These changes are being proposed as part of the president's initiative to review and improve major regulations.

Currently the rice AWP is announced at 7 a.m. each Tuesday and is effective at 12:00:01 a.m. Tuesday. Under the proposed rule, the rice AWP would be announced at 3 p.m. Eastern time each Tuesday and be effective upon announcement.

Under the proposal if the AWP is less than the current crop-year loan rate plus an amount estimated by CCC to represent average charges plus interest, CCC will not permit loan repayments or accept applications for the lock-in of loan repayment rates at a rate based on the AWP from 2 p.m. Eastern time each Tuesday until an announcement of the AWP for the succeeding weekly period has been made. Also, applications for loan deficiency payments (LDP's) will not be accepted during the same period. The one-hour interval is intended to allow a clean transition between the expiring AWP and the new AWP.

Another proposal addresses an inconsistency between existing program provisions and actual commercial practices regarding the world value of broken kernel rice. These program provisions base the market value of broken kernels on the estimated domestic market values of broken kernels. Since the inception of the rice marketing loan program, the world price of broken kernel rice has been half the whole kernel world market price. Under the new proposal, prices for broken kernels would not necessarily be fixed in relation to whole kernels but would be based on the relationship of whole and broken kernel world prices as determined by world market price observations.

Currently the upland cotton AWP is announced as soon as possible after 4 p.m. Eastern time each Thursday and is effective from 12:01 a.m.

Friday through midnight the following Thursday. Under the new proposal, the AWP would be announced at 5 p.m. each Thursday and become effective immediately. If the upland cotton AWP for the current week is less than the current cropyear base quality loan level plus an amount estimated by CCC to represent average charges plus interest, loan repayments at a rate based on the AWP will not be accepted from 4 p.m. Eastern time each Thursday until the AWP for the succeeding week becomes effective. In addition, applications for LDPs will not be accepted during the same period.

Previously CCC had proposed a change in the upland cotton AWP schedule to address the existing situation wherein the industry knows the subsequent week's AWP while the current AWP is still effective. Because the majority of those commenting on the original proposal opposed the change, CCC withdrew the proposal but indicated that another would be forthcoming. In developing the new proposal, several options were considered by CCC. These are discussed in the preamble of the proposed rule to be published in the Federal Register. However, the option outlined above is the one proposed by CCC.

Another upland cotton proposal would amend existing regulations to clarify the determination of the U.S. Northern Europe price used in the determination of the additional discretionary adjustment to the AWP and the calculation of the user marketing certificate program payment rate during the period when both current shipment prices and forward shipment prices are available for Middling 1 3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F Northern Europe.

Details will appear in the July 22 Federal Register. Comments should be addressed to: Deputy Administrator, Policy Analysis, USDA-ASCS, Room 3090-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013-2415 and must be received by Aug. 6 to be considered. The public comment period is being limited to 15 days so that a final rule can become effective as close as possible to the start of the new marketing years for rice and upland cotton.

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MADIGAN PLEDGES NEW, COST-SAVING COMPUTER POLICY

WASHINGTON, July 20—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced a new precedent-breaking policy that will halt haphazard computer purchases among farm-service field offices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture until a department-wide review of the offices is complete.

The new coordinating plan, announced to the Senate Agriculture Committee, could save an estimated \$20 million in spending over the next five years, as USDA streamlines computer operations, cuts duplication, and reduces paperwork for farmers and ranchers.

"We will not make any purchases of new types of computer systems in farm service agency field offices before the USDA/OMB Swat Team has completed its reviews," Madigan said in a letter to Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), chairman and ranking minority member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, respectively. "We are establishing a new program for a single consolidated procurement" of future computer systems on a department, instead of agency, level, he said.

Madigan said he was abandoning the past practice of agency-by-agency purchases. He said it has resulted in excessive cost to taxpayers and duplication of effort. In some instances, it has meant that incompatible computers of one agency cannot "talk" to or share information with those of another, leading to more paperwork for farmers and ranchers.

The new policy is part of Madigan's "Easy Access" program for users of USDA program offices. He said it will mean that "farmers and others who do business with the USDA field offices will benefit from dramatic reductions in paper shuffling among agencies and more timely and accurate assistance."

Madigan told the senators, "Let me assure you of my commitment to well-planned and prudent acquisitions of computer technology. We will not make irrevocable investments in new field office computer systems that would be rendered useless by future decisions on office closings and consolidations."

The new policy applies to local offices of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, and Soil Conservation Service. Consolidated computer purchases are "at least two years" away, pending results of a department-wide review of agencies now underway by the department and the Office of Management and Budget, Madigan said.

The most immediate effect of the new policy is replacement of an independent computer-buying ASCS project. In addition, USDA canceled individual programs for computer purchases by the FmHA and SCS. Agencies will be permitted to maintain computer systems on an as-needed basis; however, such actions must be approved by the USDA's Office of Information Resources Management, he said.

Consolidated purchases of computer systems, Madigan said, will ensure improved accuracy of farmers' records, loans and payments, and reduce the amount of paperwork they face.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, July 21—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.53 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 8.64 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.50 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.76 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.87 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.45 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.06 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 12:00:01 a.m. EDT until 12:00:00 a.m. EDT Tuesday, July 28. The next scheduled price

announcement will be made July 28 at 7 a.m. EDT. The price announced at that time will be effective from 12:00:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, July 28.

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USDA INCREASES ANIMAL WELFARE ACT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, July 20—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service significantly increased its number of inspections in 1991 to protect the care and treatment of animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act, a USDA official reported today.

The average number of inspections of all regulated facilities increased by nearly 16 percent last year, said Dr. Joan Arnoldi, deputy administrator of APHIS' regulatory enforcement and animal care (REAC) program.

"Legal actions taken by USDA against violators of the Act in 1991 also increased significantly," Arnoldi said.

APHIS assessed \$213,350 in fines, a 187-percent increase from last year. APHIS also suspended or revoked 176 percent more licenses and issued 163 percent more cease-and-desist orders than in 1990.

"We will continue to improve the quality and frequency of our inspections," Arnoldi said. "By increasing penalties for infractions, we are discouraging violations of the law."

To ensure compliance with the law is continually maintained, APHIS officials conducted an average of 1.5 unannounced inspections per site in 1991. Facilities with noted problems were inspected more often.

According to APHIS' 1991 Animal Welfare Enforcement Report, field inspectors conducted 15,148 inspections, an increase of 2,098 from 1990.

If deficiencies are noted during an unannounced inspection, the inspector documents the facility's problems and provides a specific deadline for correction. A facility that fails to correct deficiencies may face legal actions such as fines, license suspensions and revocations and cease-and-desist orders.

APHIS administers the Animal Welfare Act by enforcing standards for

the humane care and treatment of animals sold into the pet trade, transported commercially, exhibited to the public and used in research. The standards include provisions for adequate housing, handling, sanitation, food, water, transportation, recordkeeping, veterinary care and shelter.

REAC was created as a separate unit in APHIS in 1988 to give greater attention and visibility to animal welfare enforcement. The REAC field force is comprised of 38 animal care inspectors and 49 veterinary medical officers.

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JOHNSON NAMED FARMERS HOME STATE DIRECTOR FOR MISSISSIPPI

WASHINGTON, July 20—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan has named Pete Johnson, an attorney and a banking and financial specialist, Mississippi state director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration.

Johnson, Mississippi state auditor from 1988 to 1991, assumed his new duties this month in Jackson. Before joining FmHA, he was senior vice president of the United Southern Bank in Clarksdale and, earlier, an assistant trust officer with Trustmark National Bank in Jackson.

As state director, Johnson will be responsible for FmHA's rural housing and farm loan programs in Mississippi, which have an outstanding portfolio of almost \$2.2 billion. He will manage a staff of 500 persons working in almost 100 field offices.

In addition to his banking background, Johnson worked as a financial management and planning consultant.

He grew up in Forrest County, Miss., and is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, the Jackson School of Law, and Louisiana State University's School of Banking.

Johnson has served as chairman of the Mississippi Marketing Council, president of the Young Bankers Section of the Mississippi Bankers Association, director of the Delta Council Community and Industrial Development Board, and chairman of the Clarksdale-Coahoma County

Industrial Foundation, Airport Board, and Chamber of Commerce.

Johnson is married to the former Margaret Elise Birdsong. They have two daughters, Mary Margaret, 18, and Ann Clark, 15.

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USDA PROTECTS 24 NEW PLANT VARIETIES AND REISSUES ONE CERTIFICATE

WASHINGTON, July 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 24 new varieties of seed-reproduced plants including barley, bean, corn, cotton, lettuce, oat, evening primrose, rice, sorghum, soybean, sunflower and tomato.

Kenneth H. Evans, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

- the Semira variety of barley, developed by Svalof AB, Svalov, Sweden;
- the Bounty variety of barley, developed by P. Thomas Wymore, Glen Flora, Wis.;
- the Mayflower variety of field bean, developed by the Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.;
- the BBL 156 variety of garden bean, developed by the Rogers NK Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;
- the BCC03 variety of corn, developed by the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn.;
- the LH199 and LH216 varieties of corn, developed by Holden's Foundation Seeds Inc., Williamsburg, Iowa;
- the Rogers LG 86 variety of cotton, developed by the Rogers LG Cottonseed Co., Waco, Texas;
- the Bella Rosa variety of lettuce, developed by Plant Genetics Inc., Davis, Calif.;

- the Zenith variety of lettuce, developed by Bruce Church Inc., Salinas, Calif.;
- the Darkland Cos and Aragon Red varieties of lettuce, developed by Central Valley Seeds Inc., Fresno, Calif.;
- the Ensiler variety of oat, developed by the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, Madison, Wis.;
- the Merlin variety of evening primrose, developed by Scotia Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Surrey, England;
- the M-103, S-301 and L-203 varieties of rice, developed by California Cooperative Rice Research Foundation Inc., Biggs, Calif.;
- the HP150 variety of sorghum, developed by Holden's Foundation Seeds Inc., Idalou, Texas;
- the R159 and R145 varieties of sorghum, developed by the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn.;
- the Bell variety of soybean, developed by the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.;
- the Archer variety of soybean, developed by Iowa State University Research Foundation Inc., Ames, Iowa;
- the Sunspot variety of sunflower, developed by K. Sahin, Zaden B.V., The Netherlands; and
- the Ohio 7983 variety of tomato, developed by The Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio.

The certificate of protection for the Vance wheat variety, developed by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, is being reissued at this time specifying that seed of the variety may be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed.

The certificates of protection for the Semira and Bounty barley varieties; the Mayflower bean variety; the Darkland Cos lettuce variety; the Ensiler oat variety; the M-103, S-301 and L-203 rice varieties; and the Bell and Archer soybean varieties are being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service administers the plant variety protection program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

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Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA MAKES COLOMBIA ELIGIBLE FOR MORE MILK POWDER UNDER DEIP

WASHINGTON, July 21—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced that Colombia is eligible for an additional 1,000 metric tons of milk powder under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dairy Export Incentive Program.

Sales of milk powder will be made through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. Sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

This milk powder allocation will be valid until December 31, as provided in the invitation for offers. Details of the program will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Janet M. Kavan, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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Kim Kaplan (301) 504-6504
Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGES COULD AFFECT WEED AND INSECT PESTS

AMES, Iowa, July 21—Some insect and weed pests' ability to damage crops could be boosted if carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere increase, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said today.

Plant physiologist David Patterson said research indicates that increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels and potential global climate changes can alter growth rates, distribution and agricultural impact of weeds and insect pests.

"Some, but certainly not all weeds or insects will gain a competitive edge due to carbon dioxide increases and possible greenhouse effects," said Patterson of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. "Others may lose ground."

He said research has shown that elevated carbon dioxide levels can

increase the growth rate of some important crops. That higher rate could offset direct increases in competing weeds, said Patterson, who is at the ARS Plant Physiology and Photosynthesis Research Unit at Raleigh, N.C.

Increasing carbon dioxide levels can cause physiological and chemical changes in plants, Patterson said at the First International Crop Science Congress here. And through the greenhouse effect on climate, changes the temperature, precipitation and wind patterns are likely to have additional indirect effects.

"For example, cogongrass, a notorious perennial weed from the Old World, is currently confined to the Gulf Coast states in the U.S.," he said.

"But if warming occurs, this weed could become much more aggressive and widespread," he said. "Other researchers have indicated that kudzu and Japanese honeysuckle could extend their range north by more than 100 miles."

Also, grass weeds such as itchgrass and Texas panicum could expand northward, creating a new weed problem in the U.S. cornbelt, Patterson said.

The effects of elevated carbon dioxide on insects are uneven, according to Patterson.

For some leaf-eating insects like the soybean looper, carbon dioxide effects on host plants can lead to increases in feeding rates of as much as 80 percent. However, insects that feed on plant sap do not appear to be affected by the changes caused in plants grown under the elevated carbon dioxide.

Global temperature increases are likely to also increase the survival of insects through the winter, which in turn could lead to greater pest pressure earlier in the growing season, Patterson said.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Contact for details David T. Patterson, Plant Physiology and Photosynthesis Unit, 4123 Williams Hall, Box 7620, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Raleigh, N.C. 27695-7620. Telephone: (919) 684-6523.

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UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE MORE FOOD AID TO ZIMBABWE

WASHINGTON, July 21—Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman today announced the United States will provide the government of Zimbabwe an additional \$7.5 million in food aid under Title I of P.L. 480, the Food for Peace Program.

With the funds, Zimbabwe will purchase about 64,000 metric tons of U.S. corn, Veneman said.

The Food for Peace Program is a food aid and market development program operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service in conjunction with USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Title I of the Food for Peace Program authorizes government-to-government concessional sales, which combine low interest rates and repayment terms of up to 30 years on financing to purchase specified U.S. agricultural products.

The supply period is fiscal 1992. Purchase authorizations will be announced as issued and sales will be made by private U.S. traders on a competitive bid basis. The agreement authorizing the aid was signed in Zimbabwe on May 29 and countersigned in Washington on June 2.

For more information, contact Jim Higgiston or Todd Drennan at (202) 720-5319. For operational details call (202) 720-5780.

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Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
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FGIS DELAYS USE OF NIRT INSTRUMENTS FOR WHEAT PROTEIN ANALYSIS

WASHINGTON, July 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today announced that, effective immediately, near infrared transmittance (NIRT) instruments are not to be used to determine wheat protein in the national grain inspection system.

FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz said that, shortly after approving the use of NIRT instruments, the agency observed discrepancies in NIRT protein determinations in newly harvested wheat.

FGIS has undertaken additional technical evaluations of the instruments to determine the source of the discrepancies.

Foltz said the agency expects to allow use of the NIRT instruments for official wheat protein determination upon completion of the evaluations and resolution of the problem.

For technical information, contact Ronald Bicsak, (816) 891-8070.

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Becky Broeking (202) 720-3448
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USDA REVISES P.L. 480 TITLE I ALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL 1992

WASHINGTON, July 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued revised country and commodity allocations for the fourth quarter of fiscal 1992 under Title I of Public Law 480 (the Food for Peace Program) and the Food for Progress Program funded from Title I appropriations.

According to Christopher Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, new Title I agreements have been signed with Cote D'Ivoire, El Salvador, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Suriname and Zimbabwe.

In addition, new Title I agreements are being developed with Bulgaria, Congo, Guyana, Morocco, Sierra Leone, and Tunisia, and a new Food

for Progress agreement is being developed with Albania, Goldthwait said. Title I allocations for the Dominican Republic and Poland were withdrawn and the allocation for Romania was reduced, he said.

Except for agreements already signed, the revised allocations do not necessarily represent final U.S. commitments with participating governments. Situations may develop which could cause a further change in country and commodity allocations, Goldthwait said.

Title I of P.L. 480 is a concessional sales program designed to promote exports of agricultural commodities from the United States and to foster economic development in recipient countries. The program provides export financing over payment periods of 10 to 30 years, grace periods of up to 7 years, and low interest rates.

Several factors, including need for food, undertaking of economic and agricultural measures to improve food security, and potential for becoming a U.S. commercial market, are taken into account when prioritizing commodity allocations to recipient countries. The allocations also take into account changing economic and foreign policy situations, market development opportunities, existence of adequate storage facilities and possible disincentives to local production.

The Food for Progress program is an independently authorized program that may be funded with Title I monies. Albania, Nicaragua and Panama have signed Food for Progress agreements using transferred Title I funds that total \$56.5 million for fiscal 1992. The program is used to support countries that have made commitments to introduce or expand free enterprise elements in their agricultural economies. These policy changes may involve commodity pricing, marketing, input availability, distribution and private sector involvement.

For more information contact Mary Chambliss, (202) 720-3573.

Fourth Quarter Fiscal 1992 Public Law 480 Title I Country and Commodity Allocations

	\$Mil. Total (Mil.)	Wheat/ Flour a/ <i>(-----1,000 Metric Ton-----)</i>	Rice	Feed Grains	Vegoil
Bulgaria	10.0	—	—	—	—
Congo	5.0	—	7	—	11
Costa Rica	15.0	90	—	—	—
Cote D'Ivoire	10.0	—	34	—	—
Egypt	150.0	895	—	—	—
El Salvador	30.0	152	—	—	—
Estonia	5.0	31	—	—	—
Guatemala	15.0	120	—	—	—
Guyana	7.5	63	—	—	—
Jamaica	30.0	86	31	80	—
Jordan	20.0	115	—	—	—
Latvia	5.0	31	—	—	—
Lithuania	5.0	—	—	—	—
Morocco	37.0	63	—	—	62
Philippines	20.0	—	—	—	—
Romania	10.0	—	—	—	—
Sierra Leone	9.2 b/	6	13	—	3
Sri Lanka	5.0	30	—	—	—
Suriname	8.0	16	—	27	6
Tunisia	15.0	90	—	—	—
Zimbabwe	30.0	—	—	202	10
Total	441.7	1,788	85	309	92

(Continued: PL480 Title I Allocations, 4th Quarter Fiscal 1992)

	Oilseeds/ Meals	Tallow	Cotton
	<i>(1,000 Metric Tons/Bales)</i>		
Bulgaria	46	—	—
Congo	—	—	—
Costa Rica	—	—	—
Cote D'Ivoire	—	—	—
Egypt	—	—	—
El Salvador	23	28	—
Estonia	—	—	—
Guatemala	—	—	—
Guyana	—	—	—
Jamaica	—	—	—
Jordan	—	—	—
Latvia	—	—	—
Lithuania	23	—	—
Morocco	—	—	—
Philippines	96	—	—
Romania	—	—	18
Sierra Leone	—	—	—
Sri Lanka	—	—	—
Suriname	—	—	—
Tunisia	—	—	—
Zimbabwe	—		
Total	188	28	18

FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM, 4th Quarter Fiscal 1992

	\$Mil.	Wheat		Oilseeds/ Meal Tallow Cotton		
	Total	Flour a/ Vegoil		(Mil.)	(----1,000 Metric Tons/Bales-----)	
<i>(Mil.)</i>						
Albania	27.5 c/	40	20	—	—	29
Nicaragua	25.0 c/	45	13	9	19	—
Panama	4.0 c/	—	7	—	—	—
	56.5	85	40	9	19	29
Allocated	498.2					
Unallocated						
Reserve	5.6					
Total Program 2/	503.8					

1/ Numbers may not add due to rounding.

2/ Reflects a \$20 million transfer to Title II from the original Title I program level of \$563.8 million, this transfer includes \$7.8 million from commodity loans and \$12.2 million from Title I ocean freight differential budget authority.

a/ Wheat flour included as grain equivalent.

b/ Total includes \$2.2 million in transportation costs.

c/ Total includes financing for transportation as follows: Albania—\$3.3 million, Panama—\$600 thousand, and Nicaragua—\$4.9 million.

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Sharon Scheidhauer (301) 436-7776

USDA ANNOUNCES AGENDA TOPICS FOR VET BIOLOGICS MEETING

WASHINGTON, July 21—Regulatory and licensing issues, and consumer views on veterinary biologics, are topics for discussion at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's fourth annual meeting on veterinary biological products, to be held Aug. 18-19 in Ames, Iowa.

On March 10, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service asked interested persons to submit topics for the meeting agenda. The

agenda items announced today are based on these submissions and other considerations.

The complete agenda will be published in the July 22 Federal Register. Copies can be obtained by contacting: Lorie Lykins, Biotechnology, Biologics and Environmental Protection, APHIS, USDA, 223 South Walnut Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010; telephone (515) 232-5785.

Meeting sessions will be in the Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 18 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 19. Advance registration for the meeting is required. The deadline for registration is Aug. 10. Registration forms and lodging information are available from Lykins.

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USDA'S EXTENSION SERVICE TARGETS FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES

A sprayer tank fell. It crushed his spinal cord. Suddenly a paraplegic, Joe thought his farming career was over.

It wasn't. He continues farming, producing grain and livestock on his northwest Iowa farm.

These days Joe operates a lift-equipped tractor and combine. He has an elevator in his house. With determination and a little assistance, Joe is doing what he enjoys, farming.

Joe is one of the hundreds of case histories taken from the file of farmers, ranchers, family members and agricultural workers who have participated in state and regional programs for farmers with disabilities. One such effort is the "AgrAbility Project."

"The AgrAbility Project's name reflects our goal of enabling agricultural workers with disabilities to improve their capabilities in farming and ranching," said Myron D. Johnsrud, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service.

Designed to educate and assist farmers with disabilities, the AgrAbility Project supplies farmers with information on worksite and home modifications that accommodates their disabilities whether physical or mental.

Each year about 120,000 farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers suffer injuries which often result in permanent disabilities.

Johnsrud says the \$2.5 million awarded to state and regional programs since 1991 identifies farmers with disabilities and provides them with technical assistance in adapting to and using modified farm equipment and tools.

Brad Rein, the ES national program leader for farm safety, says the AgrAbility Project joins the expertise and infrastructure of the Cooperative Extension Service with private non-profit disability organizations, primarily the National Easter Seal Society—to provide direct education to farm families enabling them to accommodate disabilities.

The project also trains rural rehabilitation providers, agricultural specialists, agricultural agents, and others in agricultural worksite modifications, on-site consultation in appropriate technologies and assists with developing community-based volunteer rehabilitation resources, Rein said.

"If you've got the drive to get back into it [farming], you should do so as quickly as possible," said Arlan Bookwalter, an Indiana farmer who suffered a spinal injury. He participated in Extension's AgrAbility project at Purdue University's Breaking New Ground Research Center.

"We pretty much do the things we always did, we just do them differently," Bookwalter said about farming with a disability.

"At first, I thought what can they do?" said Dan Gwin, an Indiana farmer paralyzed from the waist down as a result of an accident. While Gwin recovered in an Indiana hospital, a vocational rehabilitation counselor suggested he contact the Breaking New Ground Research Center. "This made all the difference," Gwin added. "I never realized how much they could do." The BNG Research Center put Gwin in touch with vendors who taught him to modify his farm equipment and tools. As a result, he was able to farm again.

Today, Gwin is considering part-time employment advising other farmers with disabilities. "The way I see it," Gwin said, "someone helped me and I can at least return the favor."

AgrAbility Projects exist in 14 states: 1. Illinois; 2. Indiana; 3. Iowa; 4. Louisiana; 5. Michigan; 6. Minnesota; 7. Montana and 8. Idaho; 9. New York; 10. North Dakota; 11. South Carolina; 12. Wisconsin; 13. Vermont and 14. New Hampshire.

Future goals are to expand networking capabilities with other programs in more states, assist farmers with disabilities in a wider range of farmrelated activities, and improve outreach capabilities.

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Wendi Seneker (202) 720-4026

PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR UNKNOWN

WASHINGTON, July 22—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 105,664 metric tons of corn for delivery to unknown destinations during the 1992-93 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn begins Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

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